City of Lakeland

Lakeland, FL

Mayor Bill Mutz

Pledge Summary

Lakeland is a city in Central Florida with a current population of 117,281 and a population growth of 1.48%. Lakeland is located just south of the Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve and has 38 named lakes within its city limits. Lakeland prides itself in having 76 park facilities and an urban forest consisting of 65,000 plus trees. Hollis Garden, Lakeland's downtown botanical display garden, is a Certified Butterfly Garden with the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) and many other park areas throughout the city are dedicated to native plantings that provide habitats for Monarch Butterflies and other pollinators. Mayor Mutz of Lakeland, Florida has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by signing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitats throughout the city.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Communications and Convening

- Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.
- Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and

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pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Bill Mutz	2024	3/29/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Bill Mutz	2023	1/24/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Bill Mutz	2022	4/27/2022	Signatories

Action Items

In total, how many individuals have been reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan-Dec)? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

100100

Of the total number of individuals engaged, how many youth (0-18) were reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan. - Dec.)? If none, please write 0." (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

5005 youth and 95,095 adults

In total, how many acres of monarch habitat have been created in your city in the last 12 months? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

1.82

Where was the habitat created this year? Example locations may include residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, shared public spaces, and more.

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A 1.8 acre 'wet prairie' Monarch habitat was created at Lake Crago Park and a .02 acre circle on West Palm Dr. in a Lakeland neighborhood was added.

How are you leveraging the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program to engage marginalized communities, such as low-income communities or communities of color?

This year our focus was on creating and improving the Monarch habitat at Lake Crago Park. All communities utilize that park. We did not specifically target specific communities this year. The two televised city commission meetings, the Parks & Rec. Instagram, and the Parks & Rec. Facebook page does, however, impact those communities.

What was your community's motivation for taking and continuing to work on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge?

Volunteerism and conservation efforts were the main motivating factors.

What resources have been most helpful to you thus far and what new resources would you like to see to help meet your goals? What resources would be useful to help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

The University of South Florida's Plant Atlas was helpful in identifying species for our area. The expanding park land in Lakeland was helpful - we can designate areas for habitat spaces. A Monarch conservation site on the city's internet page would be useful (we're currently working on that with the new habitat signage).

What else should we know about your monarch butterfly conservation efforts over the last year?

Because we have established plant/stock material in our wetland ex-situ habitat, we now have seed sources to expand the concept more economically.

Selected Action Items

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE

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NUMBERS only)

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 0.5 acres). For reference, 1 acre = 43,560 square feet and is about the size of a football field without the end zones. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

3-25-23.jpeg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

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3-25-23db.jpg

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

The attached pictures are of a joint effort between us (City of Lakeland Parks Department) and the Rotary Club South in establishing a butterfly garden circle within a low traffic neighborhood. Monarch attracting nectar plants were installed. The circle is maintained by volunteers from the Rotary Club South.

Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.

Date of Proclamation:

5-1-2023

Title of Proclamation (i.e. – Monarch Day or Pollinator Week):

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2023 Proclamation.pdf

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day Proclamation 5-1-2023.jpeg

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Event Pic.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

23 Plantae Palooza_Poster-01.png

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Plantae Palooza 2023 Map.jpg

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How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

The number of plants sold at the Plantae Palooza event was in the thousands. In total, it was a $60,000.00 sale. We do not have an exact number of Monarch specific plants that were sold because of the multiple vendors in attendance, but a conservative estimate would be between 75 & 150. Several types of native milkweed were sold along with appropriate nectar plants.

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

2000

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to host the event?

City of Lakeland, Native Plant Society (Heartland Chapter), Garden Club of Lakeland and various local nurseries including The Nectary.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Asclepias perennis Seeds b.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Asclepias incarnata 2023.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Asclepias perennis 0.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Monarch Nectar & Host Plants with Amazon volunteers 6-26-23 at Cragoc.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Monarch Nectar & Host Plants with Amazon volunteers 6-26-23 at Cragol.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

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Butterfly Habitat Report.docx

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

7

What species were collected or propagated?

Asclepias perennis, Asclepias incarnata, Liatris spicata

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to host the event?

Amazon Employee Volunteers

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

Amazon Employees from Lakeland helped with installation of 200+ Asclepias perennis, A. incarnata, and multiple 'Monarch specific' (native) nectar plants at the Lake Crago habitat. The plants established, bloomed and seeds were subsequently collected by Parks Department staff to be propagated at the city nursery. This happened throughout 2023.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

City Hall Butterfly Display Garden - Scorpion Tail.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

City Hall Butterfly Display Garden.jpg

Where is the demonstration garden located and how does this location relate to the cultural significance of the monarch (if relevant)? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible)

The demonstration garden at City Hall (228 S Massachusetts Ave, Lakeland, FL 33801) exist around the building. The plants (including Monarch specific plants) are treated as annuals and replaced seasonally.

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

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City of Lakeland Parks Dept.

What is the size of the demonstration garden (in acres)? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 0.5 acres). For reference, 1 acre = 43,560 square feet and is about the size of a football field without the end zones. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

1.57

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Monarch Nectar & Host Plants with Amazon volunteers 6-26-23 at Cragod.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Monarch Nectar & Host Plants with Amazon volunteers 6-26-23 at Cragoe.jpg

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

City of Lakeland Parks Dept. & Amazon volunteers.

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

200

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We worked with Amazon volunteers on June 26th of this year to plant the initial milkweed and nectar plants in our Monarch habitat at Lake Crago Park.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Landscape Ordinance 4.5 - Table 4.5-6 Qualified Trees.xlsx

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

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Horticulturist (Stacy Smith), City of Lakeland Parks Dept.

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

In Progress

If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

The attached qualified plant listing must be completed by February 2024. The new/updated qualified plant listing for the Landscape Ordinance should be installed in Lakeland's Land Development Code by April of 2024. All new additions are indicated in red font.

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Habitat with Sign c.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Habitat with Sign G.jpg

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Habitat with Sign c.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Habitat with Sign G.jpg

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

4

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Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).

The attached pictures are of signs placed at our Monarch Butterfly Habitat in Crago Park. These signs will direct the public to an online city website that will explain our Monarch habitat efforts. The signs were created jointly by our Communications Dept. and our Traffics Division. The one large sign will be located adjacent to the restroom facility at Lake Crago Dog Park with the habitat in the background. The three smaller signs will be used along the western perimeter of the habitat to delineate it from the rest of the park.

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Habitat Fall 2023b.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Habitat.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

3-25-23d.jpeg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

7-17-23c.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Circle Prep.c.jpg

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

Lake Crago Dog Park (adjacent to), 525 Lake Crago Dr., Lakeland, FL 33805; 28.094060, -81.948942 & West Palm Drive circle - West Palm Drive - 28.017166, -81.958047 .

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What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

City of Lakeland Parks Dept. & Lake Crago Park staff for the Lake Crago Park Monarch Habitat, and the City of Lakeland Parks Dept., COL Water Dept. & Rotary Club South for the West Palm Drive Circle Butterfly Garden.

What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 acres). For reference, 1 acre = 43,560 square feet and is about the size of a football field without the end zones. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

1.8

How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

2

Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

A lot at Lake Crago Park was converted in 2023 and signage was created this year to delineate the habitat from the rest of Lake Crago Park. The mowing (bush-hogging) schedule is once per year during the dormant season in February. Also, the Rotary Club South, the City of Lakeland Parks Dept., and the City of Lakeland Water Dept. worked together to establish a butterfly garden in a neighborhood circle on March 25th that is located away from high traffic. The circle is maintained by Rotary Club South volunteers, and Monarch attracting plants have been included in the circle garden.

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